

Public opinion plays part in plans for Greater Manchester

John Charters, Greater Manchester Council, has approved plans to build an ammonium sulphate plant on the site of the devastated Flixborough chemical factory, where 28 men died in an explosion seven months ago.

More than 70 people from villages affected by the blast submitted written objections to the scheme.

Further broadsheets will be issued at various stages of the preparation of the structure plan, and from the whole process the planning team at the new county hall in the centre of Manchester city hopes to draw in a broad idea of people's views and wishes and build them into the scheme although the planners emphasize that final decisions will still lie with the elected councillors.

They certainly do not expect to be able to please all the people all of the time, and agree that structure planning, because of its necessarily broad and general terms, is probably one of the most difficult local authority functions to explain.

"It becomes much easier to attract interest when you get down to the painting of double yellow lines on someone's shopping street or work out precisely where you are going to put a school or a swimming bath", said Mr Harry Fenion, assistant planning officer directly responsible for the participatory operation.

Each of Greater Manchester's 10 district councils is being allocated the back page of regional editions of the broadsheet to set out local difficulties. Most district councils are also now publishing civic newspapers in which detailed local planning ideas are described.

"There is still a pretty vast barrier of suspicion about planning to be overcome", Mr Fenion said. "The first thing we are trying to do is to get away from jargon. There is no magic in the word participation. It is really all a slow, long draw-out education process."

In brief

New factory for Flixborough

Humbly Grove County Council has approved plans to build an ammonium sulphate plant on the site of the devastated Flixborough chemical factory, where 28 men died in an explosion seven months ago.

Train kills patient

Mrs Janet Catherine Curtis, aged 53, of Sorn Hill, Barn, Bridgend, a patient, walked unnoticed from a hospital yesterday, was killed on the railway 50 yards away by an express train.

Fishing takeover

A fishing stretch on the upper river Wensum between Attlebridge and Ringland has been acquired by the Anglian water authority for a trial period of a year.

Man dies in prison

Robin Ian Gorton, aged 29, remanded in custody at Birmingham magistrates' court on Christmas Eve charged with possessing drugs, died yesterday in Birmingham prison.

Wild boar killed

A wild boar which escaped 12 hours earlier from Coventry Zoo was found dead yesterday on the railway near by having been apparently bit by a train.

Education pay

A four-page inset on the Houghton report, with full details of the new salary scales proposed for colleges and polytechnics is published today in The Times Higher Education Supplement.

WEST EUROPE

W Germans spend 300m marks a year to be frightened

From Dau ran der Vat, Bonn, Dec 27

Although the West Germans were as full of Christmas spirit as anybody else this year, you had to look hard to find any signs of it in their favourite newspaper. As I write, I have before me editions of the daily *Bild Zeitung* and its Sunday sister-paper, *Bild am Sonntag*, both published in Hamburg.

Bild Zeitung is often justly likened to the *Daily Mirror*—and this strikes the objective observer as a little hard on the British paper. The only things the two have in common are colossal circulations and a taste for fat headlines and saucy pictures. Politically, they could hardly be farther apart. The *Bild* sells four million copies a day, so probably 10 million people—one-sixth of the West German population—read it.

An intelligent reader of German could probably get through it in four minutes, or five if he also wants to know what is on television. It rarely runs on more than eight text size pages.

Bild am Sonntag is much fatter, and at the equivalent of 17p a copy, four times as much as the daily, regales its readers with the latest broken royal marriages, war serials and the private lives of people in show business. The Sunday newspaper uses such huge type that there is never room for any actual text on the front page—just headlines. On Sunday, December 15, a huge headline occupying half the front page said: "Thus died Fritz Szepan", who was a footballer. Above that, a smaller headline reported: "Princess Grace badly ill."

The essential character of the paper is to serve as the leading national angst machine. Clearly the West Germans like to have a frightener put on them each day; otherwise it could be assumed that they would not spend 300 million marks a year buying it.

For me the headline of the year came last month. In the very fastest size of type in its considerable arsenal, underscored in red ink (which seems to be gilding fine gold a little), the main headline said: "Sixty politicians shot dead." I had worked out that this would just about cover the entire Upper House plus the Federal Cabinet. Then I read in the accompanying report that the massacre had occurred in Ethiopia.

To return to the present, on Thursday last week the main headline said: "Woman goes blind through the pill", which should have frightened a few million people here.

Yet it is strange how a Bonn correspondent tends, on arrival at the office, to turn to *Bild* first of all the papers. At least he can be sure that it will inject a little colour into the morning—even if that colour is blood red.



A rescue miner tries to comfort a dead colleague's wife in Liévin, northern France.

Restaurant prices are frozen in Paris

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Dec 27

The price of a meal or a drink in a Paris restaurant or café is to be frozen from Thursday until March 31.

M. Jean-Pierre Fourcade, the Minister of Economics and Finance, ordered the freeze today after his price inspectors reported that restaurant prices had gone up in Paris on average by more than 16 per cent in a 12-month period ending October, although the rometers' prices of their provisions showed only an 11 per cent increase.

During October Parisian restaurateurs were increasing their prices at an annual equivalent of more than 30 per cent, the inspectors found.

The Federation of Paris Hotel, Restaurant, and Café Proprietors indicated today that its members would accept a three-month standstill, but if it was prolonged there would be strikes.

The federation claimed that notwithstanding the recent price increases the running of a Paris restaurant was becoming steadily less profitable.

M. Fourcade today also ordered a tightened watch on shopkeepers' profit margins. They must, he said, in future pass on any wholesalers' reductions and stop the practice of regularly up-pricing their stock.

wards for would-be rescuers who died

Our Correspondent

to people who died trying to rescue others were posthumously awarded memorial plaques by the Carnegie Fund Trust yesterday.

James Corbett, aged 26, led a fire protection team of four men to a point where he was unable to remain aloft himself.

Mrs Margaret Mitchell, aged 43, a housewife, was at her home in Woodford Square, Kensington, London, with her two daughters, aged 15 and 10, and a nine-year-old friend of her younger daughter when at about midnight on June 22 her electric blanket began to smoulder. She put the blanket and sheets in the bathroom to soak and sprinkled water on the mattress but about four hours later after they had all gone back to bed Mrs Mitchell awoke to find the house filled with smoke.

Her daughters made their way to the ground floor but the visiting child refused to do so through the smoke. Mrs Mitchell, who was waiting to enter hospital for an operation, went back to the top floor to lead her down. They became trapped and were overcome by smoke and fumes. Mrs Mitchell's husband was abroad.

Dutch subsidy to 'Marxist' group

From Sue Masterman, The Hague, Dec 27

The award of a Government subsidy by Mr Harry van Doorn, the Dutch Minister of Culture, to the theatre workshop group Prologue has ended a period of collaboration between the Government and the Opposition, which lasted through the oil crisis and its economic consequences.

Prologue is an experimental group operating in the south of the Netherlands. It performs mainly for schools and workgroup meo's clubs, and its message is clear—capitalism is the root of all evil and life for the working classes will only become tolerable under a socialist regime. This year the province of Limburg and the city of Eindhoven refused to grant it financial support.

The subsidizing of experimental theatre projects, theatre workshops, and other cultural forms which are not self-supporting, is general practice in the Netherlands. Only professional entertainment is supposed to pay for itself.

Early in December, just before the Ministry of Culture was due to announce its decision on Prologue's application for a state subsidy to replace the local subsidies which the group had been refused, the attack was launched. Mrs Phia van Veenendaal, a Democratic Socialist MP gave her opinion of Prologue in an interview with *De Telegraaf*, Holland's leading daily newspaper. She was quoted as accusing Prologue of being a Marxist cover organization, and taking part in irregular activities.

Subsequent clashes between the newspaper, the politician and the theatre workshop brought a hardening of attitudes, and Prologue took both the newspaper and the politician to court. On December 16, *De Telegraaf* was ordered to publish an apology on its front page, which it did. A week later on December 22, Mrs van Veenendaal was ordered by the judge not to repeat any of the accusations which she could not substantiate in court.

Within hours, Mr van Doorn announced that the state had awarded Prologue a grant; but he added that it was temporary because Prologue, as a regional theatre, should be supported from regional funds.

Since then the press has been searching for evidence against Prologue, while the ranks of the Democratic Socialists have been divided into those who think that Mrs van Veenendaal should resign and those who believe that there is more to the affair than political shadow boxing.

South Moluccans attack World Court building

The Hague, Dec 27.—Demonstrators demanding independence for the south Molucca islands from Indonesia did serious damage to the headquarters of the International Court of Justice in the Peace Palace in The Hague today.

About 30 people from Ambon, one of the Moluccas, smashed their way through the glass doors at the entrance of the building and hurled fire bombs into a room on the first floor, badly burning a Turkish carpet 540ft square.

They wrecked the mechanism of the clock in the mock medieval tower, shattered priceless huge Chinese vases in the Japanese room, and smashed the tall candelabra set along the staircase leading to the first floor.

The palace administrator said that it was impossible to estimate the cost of the damage.

Later 500 demonstrators, hurling stones and fire bombs, clashed outside the Indonesian Embassy with 150 steel-helmeted police. Eight arrests were made.

The demonstrators had massed outside the office of Mr Joop den Uyl, the Prime Minister. A small deputation was allowed in to present a petition calling for the island's independence and the tracing of political prisoners in Indonesia to the Secretary General of the Dutch administrative services.

A spokesman for the demonstrators said that they were protesting against alleged torture of south Moluccans in Indonesia.

South Moluccans living in Holland have set up their own republic in exile.—Reuter and Agence France Presse.

Saddam Hussein on Gold and International Monetary System

Mr. Saddam Hussein, Vice-Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council in the Republic of Iraq, made the following statement to the Iraqi News Agency on December 26th on the question of gold and the international monetary system.

Mr. Saddam Hussein said:

"We are following the new developments in the gold policy and the interests of the under-developed countries, including the oil-producing countries

"Any country or any group of countries that take any step leading to the intensification of inflation in the world should in our opinion, bear the responsibility of such an action.

"Iraq has repeatedly announced at OPEC and other meetings that the continuation of inflation in the advanced industrial countries would lead, directly or indirectly, to a rise in the prices of manufactured goods, raw materials, foodstuffs and energy, thus increasing the financial burdens of the under-developed countries.

"We do not agree to individualist remedies to the gold policy carried out outside a general international agreement, because though such remedies might lead to the creation of monetary liquidity in the advanced countries, yet they

will inflict harm on the under-developed countries, at least in two aspects: firstly, decreasing the issuance of new private withdrawals that are distributed to the under-developed countries, and secondly, increasing the monetary and financial burdens as a result of the rise in the rate of inflation and the deterioration of the standard of living of the peoples of these countries.

"Individual remedies might also drive at enabling the industrial countries to avoid their responsibilities for extending the necessary technical and economic aid to the under-developed countries and at switching the whole burden of these responsibilities upon the oil-producing countries that will themselves become victims of the rise in the rates of inflation.

"We call upon all under-developed countries, particularly the oil-producing countries, to unify their efforts and activities—through the Transitional Committee for Reformation of the World Monetary System, the United Nations or any other international organizations—to stress the need for remedying the question of gold and world monetary liquidity within the framework of an international general agreement."

December 26th

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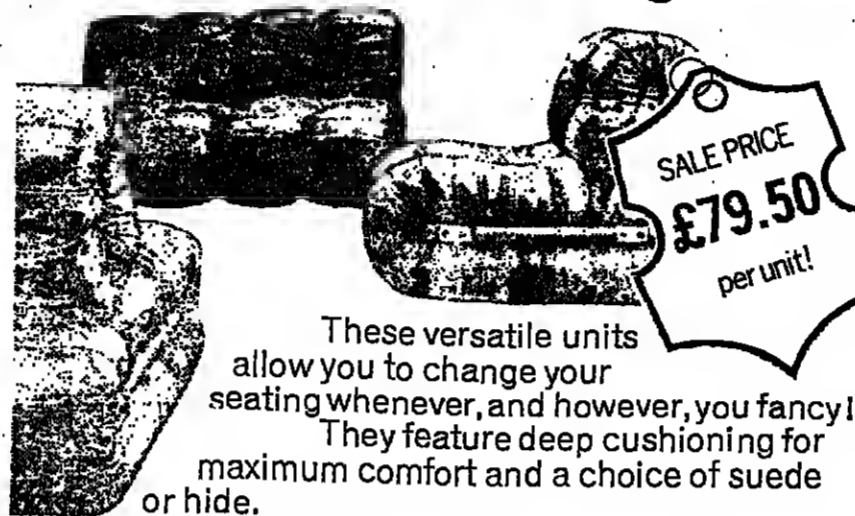
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Broadcasting Saturday

Two sides of Telly Savalas, first as a ruthless Arizona boss (ITV 6.50), then as our friendly New York cop (BBC1 9.20). Otherwise 5.35, BBC correspondents report 1974 and 1975 (BBC2 9.20) and an Iris Murdoch serial begins (BBC2 8.30).—L.B.

Table of radio and television schedules for Saturday, including BBC 1, BBC 2, Southern, Granada, Anglia, Grampian, HTV, Westward, Anglia, Yorkshire, and Border.

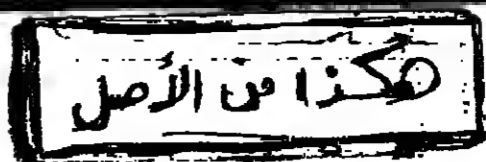
Radio Epitaph

The year is dying, let it die... for any single pair of ears to notice and I am aware of fear... Radio Epitaph by David Wade.

Sunday

That top-flight take-off show, Who Do You Do? stages its own Christmas production (ITV 7.25). Later all-black ballet should attract (ITV 10.30). An annual favourite arrives with the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures (BBC2 5.10). On the same channel whales (BBC2 7.25) and Florence (BBC2 10.35) make entrancing repeats.—L.B.

Table of radio and television schedules for Sunday, including BBC 1, BBC 2, Southern, Granada, Scottish, Ulster, Tyne Tees, HTV, Westward, Anglia, Yorkshire, and Border.



Continued from page 6

"You describe it perfectly", said Mr Peach. "Yes", said Pussy Owl modestly. "I have literary as well as musical talent. However, all this singing and flying—to say nothing of having to correct your mistakes—has made me hungry. I think I'll go and have my lunch now."

That's just as well. I'm extremely busy at present. "We haven't decided yet", Mr Peach said in a warning tone, "whether to admit you to the school."

In the orchestra—playing the triangle. "Can you think of an opera with a glockenspiel in the triangle?" Pussy Owl asked in a chatty way.

"That word is neither Italian nor German. It's Pussy-Owl. I speak Pussy-Owl, English, French, Italian and German. Of course I know how to pronounce a c or Italian when it's followed by an e or i. The mistake I referred to, in which a very common one, is to suppose that the composer's name is spelled with a c et al. It happens that he's another of my ancestors in the Italian branch of the family. So I happen to know through family tradition that the original and authentic form of the name is Puccini."

He set off, walking with stumpy, clumping steps, up the centre aisle. "Come on, Mrs Frax; come on Puppelwitz", he said as he passed the row where they were sitting, and they fell in behind him. "I hope it's a decent lunch you've got me."

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Travel

Starting the year in regal style

Next Saturday, the QE2 sets out from Southampton on a 32-day cruise around the world. What a way to start the year! And you may do so, if you have the funds, for the man from Cuorad tells me that berths are still available. You will have to pay upwards of £2,300 for the trip and you should be very, for the 1,400 places on board are almost all taken.

At a time when most of us are weighing up the 1975 prospects and wondering: "Where do we go from here?" it is nice to know that some people have the answer. Bali, and Hongkong, Cape Town and Acapulco, Curacao, Rio de Janeiro and Honolulu are just a few of the ports along the way. Shore excursions are, of course, extra and range from £2.70 for a half-day bus trip round New York to £685 for an eight-day safari in Africa. Incidentally, the QE2's pair of penthouses cost £42,000 each on this voyage. Both will be occupied.

Looking beyond that particular plum of a trip and surveying the rest of the fruit on the travel trade's stall, there is plenty to make the mouth water, although a certain amount of blight has been attacking the crop, as we are likely to discover next spring.

As far as 1975 prospects are concerned, I intend to write more fully of certain holiday ideas during the early weeks of the new year. Broadly speaking, though, the choice at home or abroad has never been wider. The luxury villas and five star hotels are awaiting us, as ever, but this may prove to be the year we have to pass them by and trim our ambitions to suit "reduced circumstances".

For this reason—peril prices and rationing notwithstanding—I believe that many people will

take their own cars abroad and seek accommodation in pensions, *estades* and similar low cost establishments throughout the mainland continent. The touring motorist can escape the popular, and higher priced, routes and regions, and take advantage of hotel booking schemes operated through local tourist offices.

A considerable number (if booking reports are anything to go by) are already planning camping holidays and I have been specifically investigating the merits of a company called Canvas Holidays, which takes all the dookey work out of camping by supplying ready erected, fully equipped frame tents on selected sites. More about that in January.

If holiday sacrifices have to be made, parents are loath to deprive children of a summer break. Consequently I believe that holidays for unaccompanied children, both in Britain and abroad, will do well in 1975, and if you intend to send your children to the equivalent of "summer camp", as I am, an early approach is advised. One particular company PGL, which operates from Ross-on-Wye, is already receiving firm bookings for next summer, although its brochure will not be published until early next month. Again, I shall be dealing with that type of holiday in more detail later.

Clearly, the entire self-catering movement will receive a boost next year, whether one hires a boat on an English canal, a cottage in Devon, or a villa in Spain or Portugal. (Incidentally, one of the major boat hire companies in the Norfolk Broads, is reported to

be already completely booked up for 1975—or as near as makes little difference. "They'll be at the Boat Show, as usual, but it's hardly worth their while", I was told last week.)

Bigger boats—cruise liners—pose a problem for anyone studying 1975 form. On the one hand they have the advantages of a loyal clientele, to whom they offer the financial inducements of daily life at "duty free" rates on board. On the other, there is the mammoth cost of fuel which must play havoc with fare projections and all other calculations. Yet I was impressed by the optimism of Mr Bob Duffett, the European sales director of Norwegian Caribbean Lines, when he launched his company's 1975 programme, which is more than ever aimed at the British market.

Optimism, too, from Chadris, with an expanded series of Caribbean cruises between now and mid-April and over 140 cruises from European ports between March and October. Most of these are the "fly and cruise" formula, operating from Amsterdam, Cannes, Venice and Piraeus.

There are some fairly mouth-watering offers in the P & O programme, too, with Arcadia, Canberra and Oriana operating 23 cruises out of Southampton between April and December. "Traditional" trips these, which appeal, I know, to those of this type of holiday. Incidentally, Canberra sails on a 100-day round the world voyage on January 8, and although 1,100 passengers are already booked for the round trip, I am told some two-bedded cabins are still available—at prices which range from £2,834 to £6,589 per person. A trifle more expensive than the QE2 cruise I mentioned earlier, but

you do get a few more days for the money! As for the "traditional" package holiday abroad, I fear the Court Line lesson has not been learned by the tour company manufacturers of this product. Certainly they seem to have finally seen the light as far as prices and profitability go, but once again there will be far too many "packages" on the market.

It has been estimated, with authority, that for every two holidays sold, one will remain unsold. If this comes to pass, we shall pay—literally, because the holidays we buy subsidize—the ones we don't buy. It is not a mistake, in Italian, a c that is followed by an e or an i is pronounced ch. Mr Peach glared at Pussy Owl for a moment and then, leaning forward in his seat so as to confront Pussy Owl facing him, said: "I'm not actually singing, I can conduct."

Conduct our end-of-term performances", said Mr Peach in a rather rolling, thunderous voice. "I suppose not", Pussy Owl said, though he didn't sound convinced. "I can certainly sing loudly enough for two or three. Still, it might be better if I take only one role, because then, when I'm not actually singing, I can conduct."

Mr Peter Shore has promised that legislation will be introduced early in 1975 to protect holidaymakers and to compensate them for a student performance of the Court Line collapse. (In passing, a number of that company's employees suffered far more than the loss of a holiday, or holiday money, but nobody has suggested compensating them.) Mr Reg Law of the Court Line Action Group, reckons that over 100,000 people are involved. His group has been pressing for 100 per cent compensation and legislation to protect future holidaymakers, both of which should be achieved in the new year. The group's third request, for an inquiry into the Court Line collapse, seems unlikely to be granted.

To return to my main theme of holidaymaking, various authors in Britain are predicting a bumper year, although rising costs are, if anything, biting harder here than abroad. The *English Holidays '75* publication, which I mentioned on this page last month, should do much to encourage bookings and, again, my advice would be

to make your decision as soon as possible. Bookings should certainly encourage those thousands of small hotels and guest houses which are operating on a knife edge at present. Many did not have a good season last summer, despite the general trend towards holidays in Britain, and all are facing high bills as a result of recent fire regulations.

To dispose of the gloom in one go, it is certain that several hundred travel agents will go out of business by the end of the financial year. The squeeze for prompt payment has been put on them by tour companies, airlines and so on and they are caught in the classic "cash flow" problem. Estimates vary, but 700 agencies throughout the country is the likeliest total.

Writing to me (again, rather gloomily) from Edgbaston, a Mr Rogers suggested recently that holidays abroad were "unpatriotic" and that writers on the subject should encourage people to take their holidays in Britain in 1975. I appreciate Mr Rogers' concern, while rejecting his argu-

ment. People should feel free to do as they wish with their disposable income—buy cars or clothes, give it to bookmakers or endow cats' homes. Equally they should choose what holiday suits them and travel journalists should choose subjects that reflect all tastes—the merit of the subject, not its geographical location, being the only criterion. Heaven forbid that it should be "patriotic" to boost Blackpool at the expense of Benidorm, or promote Cornwall in lieu of Brittany. For holidays, travel, tourism—call it what you will—is an international, two-way traffic. If we stop going abroad, those "foreigners" could just as easily stop coming to Britain, and that would be disastrous, notwithstanding the opinions of Sir George Young and other critics of Britain's tourist effort.

In sum, though, the prospects for our holidays in 1975 are patchy, but generally optimistic, with most of us buying to lower our sights, maybe. And likely to be pleasantly surprised at the result.

John Carter

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Collectors. Drink. To keep or not to keep, that is the question. Once, in July, a well-known writer asked what should be done with the opened but unfinished bottles of wines left over from Christmas.

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Diamond Jewellery. Holmes Ltd. 25 Old Bond Street, London W.1. Omega/Rolex secondhand watches. Spink want to buy Silver. King Street, St James's London SW1.

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Quakes can be our worry, too

At 9.18 on the morning of April 1, 1884, Dr Alexander Wallace and his family were in their garden looking across at the oaks and spires of the town...

Parole is still the best hope of preventing a young prisoner's return to crime

One effect of the Younger Report on young adult offenders has been to bring to a head an issue which in the past has usually divided judges from penologists. But, interestingly, it has done so at a time when a few of both are crossing the floor to join the other side.

This is a subtle distortion of the main argument for executive discretion; namely, that instead of treating a custodial sentence as irrevocable it allows it to be modified in the light of later or better information.

I see nothing wrong, and indeed something desirable, in the idea of a review of a sentence

which a prisoner can succumb: one is conformity with what is called "the inmate sub-culture". The fourth argument: The length of sentence should reflect the relative harmfulness of offences, and therefore should be fixed by judges, not the executive.

How the Order of the Bath climbed the chivalry charts

Prince Charles was in the news recently for attending a conventional party, with ciger, at the Devon town of Okehampton with his fellow helicopter fliers from the Fleet Air Arm based at Yeovilton.

how the young king was accompanied by a body of knights, who, having been duly washed in a bath, assumed their knightly dress, and escorted him to the palace. But there are even earlier references.

Finally, an argument which Dr Hood does not use, but which others have: "The executive discretion allows administrators to reduce the time served inside in response to pressures, such as overcrowding, to which they should not respond."

The year veterans showed youngsters a thing or two

At the age of 51, Percy Wells Ceruty, an Australian athletics coach and minor guru, finished a marathon in a Victorian State record time and later became only the third Australian to run work again, and probably live for only two years.



Rex Harris: He came back to beat riders half his age.

the military Stan Smith in the last four. We felt Rosewall's age more than he did himself (one last chance: play for time, Ken, for time will not play for you).

Wealth tax men should spare a thought for Lord Egremont

With the spirit of goodwill, good works and charity still upon us (I trust), it may be timely to glance at Mr Healey's prospective wealth tax and then look back.

With this in mind, I was thinking about the superb Turner exhibition at the Royal Academy. That is to say I was thinking about our greatest painter and his principal patron, George Wyndham, third Earl of Egremont.

George Wyndham, third Earl of Egremont (1871 to 1937), who knows whether Turner could have done as much as he did, or so congenially? Turner and Egremont—Turner and Egremont—are inseparable.

ponies. Nobody was ever quite sure whose children they were. "There were artists all over the place, some doing original work, others copying Van Dycks. In the Old Library you might have discovered Sir William Beechey altering the figure and background of Egremont's mother. Then there would be Carew, the sculptor, modelling and messing about in his bedroom, or chiselling a medalion or two downstairs."

Medieval refuge where exiles can dream of home

A medieval abbey in Oxfordshire marked this week its official return—more than four centuries after Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries—to something like its original function, with very early morning Mass, self-help communal living and sufficiency agriculture.

before he moved into the abbey with his wife Mary, their five children and two assistants. He was expelled from the territory by the South Africans for championing the rights of strikers in 1972 and came to England.

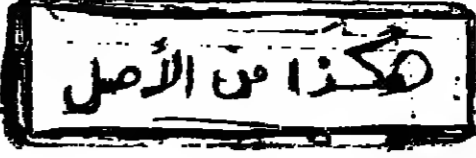
Peter J. Smith

Norman Fox

Michael Barsley

William Raynor

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THE CHILTERN BECKON

It would be a relief for all concerned if Mr John Stonehouse were to apply at once for the stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds. If he is still of a mind to start a new life in Australia, if he is permitted to do so, and if he is now capable of a coherent plan of action, he will vacate his seat. But those are big "ifs" in the context of this extraordinary story. It is conceivable that he will let the matter of the membership of the House of Commons lie, or that he will come back and try to reestablish his political career. The second of those alternatives is certainly consonant with his personality.

Over the years the Commons has found various grounds sufficient for expulsion. None of the list necessarily closed. Conviction of a criminal offence other than treason does not automatically disqualify or lead to expulsion. Miss Bernadette Devlin, when member for Mid-Ulster, was convicted of riotous behaviour and sentenced to six months imprisonment. She was not expelled. Peter Baker, a one time MP for South Norfolk, was convicted of forgery and sentenced to seven years imprisonment in 1954. He was expelled. A member who is expelled is not disabled from standing for election again, though he may be again excluded—Wilkes and Bradlaugh.

The question in a judicial spirit. That requirement implies in the case of Mr Stonehouse that members of Parliament refrain from passing judgment at this stage on his suitability for continued membership of the Commons. He has staged an evidently premeditated, and unsuccessful, disappearance and change of public identity. For that purpose it is alleged that he obtained a false passport (a criminal offence) and procured another birth certificate which he was not entitled to present as his own. Most of the rest of the story is rumour and speculation.

THE DESTRUCTION OF DARWIN

The devastation of Darwin does not rank among the world's largest disasters. The death toll is smaller and the physical damage less extensive than after many other natural disasters, such as the Skopje earthquake of 1963 or the Bangladesh floods of 1970. But numerical comparisons do not mean very much. The almost complete destruction of a town containing roughly as many people as Folkestone evokes a response that is not proportionate to figures on a numbered scale. Many people have died and a great many more have lost not only material possessions but the entire familiar pattern of their lives. No one can measure this loss, and no amount of physical restoration can wholly replace what has gone. It may not even be possible to rebuild the city on the same site, in which case nature will have achieved more than the massive bombing raids of 1942.

known faults in the earth's crust. It is therefore difficult to take special precautions against them, such as building to certain specifications. The best hope is a good forecasting system and reasonably solid buildings. But nothing that is realistic in terms of cost and other factors can provide complete protection from freak weather. Enormous damage was done on Britain's east coast in 1953, when 307 people lost their lives. Nine years later 343 people were killed by storms and floods in Hamburg. Scarcely any part of the globe is immune.

made for abnormal weather. Even so, the disaster will not have helped Mr Whitlam, the Prime Minister. He has already been under criticism for making a long trip abroad at a time when his country is suffering from inflation and unemployment. The fact that the cyclone struck while he was absent will create unhappiness if irrational associations in people's minds.

LAY-OFFS IN THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

It looks increasingly as if the New Year will usher in programmes of severe redundancies in the motor-car industry. Indeed, the process would probably already be further advanced but for the fact that the managements concerned preferred not to blight the holiday period for their employees. The most important single move has been from Chrysler, the American subsidiary, which has already announced that it is putting 5,000 of its Scottish workers on to a three-day week for the last three weeks of January as part of its plans to reduce production. Unless there is, for some quite unexpected reason, a marked improvement in car sales, short-time working will inevitably lead to actual redundancies. And other car manufacturers and component makers will be forced to take the same action.

a whole. To the extent that the management of Chrysler UK is closely supervised by its parent company in the United States, the subsidiary in this country may be somewhat quicker than a purely domestic company in responding to the changed situation in the industry. It would, however, be wrong to suggest that American masters are forcing a British company to initiate unnecessarily stringent economy measures. The fact is that no car manufacturer can continue to employ labour and produce cars if it is not achieving the necessary sales. As the domestic and international recession deepens, the levels of employment can only fall.

aware as anyone of the political and other pressures that would build up if it became clear that the million mark was soon to be reached and then surpassed. Yet, in the interests of economic stabilization, the Chancellor dare not embark on any general reflation of the economy until it is clear that the general level of wage settlements is down to an acceptable level.

Break before university

From Sir Peter Venables
Sir, In his letter (December 5) Sir John Masterman thinks it too late to regret that many of the students promised places at Monash University did not take them up after the break. Before the practice of the break has a chance to become widespread at British universities with similar results, it would be as well to consider some aspects which have been overlooked or even deliberately ignored.

versity may extend to several years, but is the student then to return on the same level as the first place? Nothing could more certainly ensure that still fewer would return to study. Expenditure would then of course be quietly contained within limits assumed to be justifiable.

been once, but now it no longer suffices to prepare students for their own personal lives and work—the casualties and the short-falls are too severe in terms of human happiness and effectiveness and thus derivatively in terms of the national interest. It is a tragedy that the experience and education, reflected on and assimilated. The Vice-Chancellor of Brunel University touched on this central issue in his excellent letter (December 2), not least I suspect because of his experience in industry and his strong commitment to sand-wich courses.

Is there, or is there not, a crisis?

From Mr A. R. E. Hore
Sir, I wish someone would tell me whether or not we are all in a frightful mess. I am not sure that I mind any longer which way it is as long as I know because then I shall know what to do.

my friends which way to turn. No need to frighten me with dark threats, just tell me. But please do not go on telling me that everything is terrible when it is not. For we are going to have even more frightful turning points next year, because if you do and my friends say so, I shall be carrying on in our own possibly idiotic and almost certainly selfish ways until we have finally succeeded in talking ourselves into a crisis.

Editors and a closed shop

From the Editor of The Guardian
Sir, Before the common king disappears in a puff of smoke over Ebbw Vale, could we tidy up one or two points?

Mergers Act, today's Labour Government ought to make similar provision in its Trade Union Bill. If monopoly ownership had to be prevented, so must control by a single editorial trade union be avoided.

AMERICAN TO CLOSE HOSPITALS

From Dr L. R. Twentymann and others
Sir, May we refer to the recent letter concerning the Elizabeth Garrett Hospital and draw your attention to the fact that in addition to this hospital there are others fulfilling a national function which are under threat.

officials of the Regional Health Authorities have completely failed. Like the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, communication with the authorities has been lost and the endowment funds of both hospitals (subscribed by the public) are in the hands of the Area Health Authority.

The increases in top salaries

From Mr Hugh Saunders
Sir, Many of us are concerned at the ineptitude of the Government in publishing the recent report on Top Salaries giving any indication of what the suggested increases really mean.

Either we are, as a nation, in grave and desperate situation, we are not. If we are, and I am sure we are, then this is no time to grieve with public moody, and to go for "Top Peoples" salaries to let us, by all means, establish principles of justice and equity; salary scales and structures, but I am sure that we are also establishing the conditions under which the principles can be realized and preserved.

From Mr A. J. Pettit
Sir, As I am unaffected (save as taxpayer) by the increases in the salaries of under-secretaries and others; and as the case for even the limited increases seems likely to be made out; may I put the case in reply to your correspondent, Mr Ian Gow, MP? (December 24).

1. When there is inflation of the order of 20 per cent, to fail to give salary increases awarded or recommended to any one group of people is, in effect, to reduce the standard of living by 20 per cent a year. If Mr Gow believes in such a socialist policy of "levelling down", should not this be effected openly and by positive actions such as tax and/or a levy, if it is to be effected?

The price of sugar

From Mr John Southgate
Sir, In all the press coverage of the current sugar negotiations between the developing countries, the EEC and the British Government I have seen no adequate account of the effect of the proposals on the developing countries. I retired in the autumn of 1972 as Executive Director of the Commonwealth Sugar Exporters' Association and have had no part at all in the present negotiations, but the following are the facts, as I understand them, which have been offered by the EEC access for 1.4m tons indefinitely subject to periodic review at a minimum guaranteed price "within the structure of Community prices".

at least as long as the world price is significantly higher than the minimum price; (c) that £200 is inadequate in present circumstances, but it must be added that in the light of the long-term arrangement they are not seeking anything like the total world price.

Cathedral collapses

From Professor J. Heyman
Sir, Mr P. Silby in his letter today (December 16) draws attention to the large number of collapses which occur in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. A common feature of almost all the examples cited by Mr Silby is that collapse occurred within a generation of the completion of the work.

become so deformed that collapse inevitably follows. At Ely Cathedral, for example, for which I have the honour to be Consulting Engineer for the current restoration work, the western tower has settled relative to the nave and south-west transept by about 12 inches; gross distortions can be seen in the abutting arcades of the nave. However, there is an evidence of any movement having occurred during the past 600 years, and the foundations are now sound without any remedial work being necessary.

Ownership of Rockall

From Mr Peter Clarke
Sir, The news that the Danish Government disputes the ownership of Rockall merits some attention. The willfulness of the Government to placate the other nations of the EEC makes one fear that we could forfeit the islet in return for a Danish concession on sugar beet or some other commodity made artificially scarce by EEC rules.

The ideal way to pay for the PLI loans sampling system—the only one that's fair and practical—is through an extended copyright scheme, as proposed by Henry Cecil in your columns last summer. But such a scheme may not be rushed on to the statute book; many complicated details remain to be worked out. So in the meantime a grant from the Exchequer will do very nicely and we are grateful to Hugh Jenkin for his promise to find the whereabouts to write books.

Public lending right

From Mr David Benedictus
Sir, Writers don't want a levy on borrowings from the public libraries. A free library service is as essential as free swimming baths, free street lights, and all the rest. And to suggest, as Messrs Hurd and Lawson do (December 20), that the taxpayer should not subsidize this service, but that those who use the libraries should, is as logical as proposing that children should pay for schooling, criminals for jails, and the unemployed for unemployment benefits.

The British Library

From Professor T. A. Birrell
Sir, All overseas pilgrims to the British Library will read with amazement and dismay of the latest plan for its ultimate destination. So the Old Royal Library of the Kings of England, the King's Library, Domesday Book, Magna Carta, Beowulf and Shakespeare's First Folio are to be housed on a disused railway goods yard at Euston.

SOCIAL NEWS

...Alexandra will attend a... given by the members of... Club at the Ionsbury... Centre, London, on February...

Upcoming marriages

Hon T. E. Alexander... Miss D. M. Jenks... engagement is announced... Thomas Bruce, younger son...

Rev R. A. MacHugh... engagement is announced... Richard, younger son... Rer Professor and Mrs...

M. S. Vine... engagement is announced... Mrs F. S. Vine... and Mrs C. R. King...

J. P. Nicolls... engagement is announced... Mrs M. G. Monico... Phillips Nicolls and Mrs...

Weddings today... Sir Andrew... Sir Richard... Sir Harry...

Today's engagements... Poets of the First World War... Imperial War Museum...

Tomorrow... Exhibition: George III, collector... The Queen's Gallery...

Understanding the mystery of the Christian Church

By Michael Richards

Editor, The Clergy Review

Liturgical change can only really be justified by considerations of faith and doctrine; on matters of faith, one can reasonably expect to argue for ever...

search for a refuge from the world and from themselves... The Church did not take over the old mystery religions...

Christians took the term 'mystery' and developed its meaning... The message of the Church was given all at once in simple, public proclamations...

The 'mystery' of Christ's presence in the Eucharist, in his Word, in the Church, is not an enigma, a puzzle, designed to keep our brains busy...

The Statement on the Eucharist drawn up by the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission... has succeeded in expounding this realism in terms which avoid the idealism into which some Catholics...

OBITUARY

MR JACK BENNY

A lifetime in entertainment



Jack Benny, who has died at the age of 80...

Radio audiences did, however, care about him, to such an extent that he bought himself out of an already scheduled stage musical...

In spite of his repeated assurances to the contrary, Jack Benny was neither a mean man nor a mean violinist...

After the Second World War Benny moved his show, complete with Rochester...

SIR HAMILTON KERR

Sir Hamilton Kerr, Bt. Conservative Member of Parliament for Cambridge from 1950 to 1956...

From Oxford he went into Fleet Street, and worked for some time on the staffs of the Daily Telegraph and Daily Mail...

His victory there was one of the features of that election, for he turned a Labour majority of 60,000 into a Conservative majority of 10,000...

He had a gift for interpreting with almost uncanny accuracy the views of his fellow members on topics of the day...

He was twice married and is survived by his second wife and the son of his first marriage...

LORD MOYLE

Lord Moyle, CBE, whose death at the age of 80 was reported briefly in The Times on Tuesday...

He was twice married and is survived by his second wife and the son of his first marriage...

DR JOHN RAMSBOTTOM

Mr E. F. Allen writes: Your excellent obituary makes no mention of John Ramsbottom's service to the Royal National Rose Society...

Mr Ramsbottom, a former president of the Royal Society of British Artists, has died at the age of 91.

25 years ago

From The Times of Wednesday, December 28, 1949

Temperatures up

From Our Weather Correspondent: Even those with very long memories will be able to quote few comparisons with the mildness of the Christmas period for 1949...

At Kew on Boxing Day the temperature rose to 54.4 deg, and on the following day the temperature did not fall below 44 deg.

Services tomorrow: First Sunday after Christmas

- St Paul's Cathedral, 11.30 AM... Westminster Abbey, 10.30 AM... St Martin-in-the-Fields, 11.30 AM...

Science report

Schizophrenia: Heart drug

The Department of Health's medicines division thought the evidence available justified a trial of the drug in schizophrenia...

Propranolol is a dangerous drug, heart failure and make asthma worse. Source: British Medical Journal, December 14, page 637.

Today's engagements

- Exhibition: George III, collector and patron, The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, 2-3.

Tomorrow

- Exhibition: "Utility", furniture and household goods of the 1940s, Geoffrey Museum, Kingsland Road, Bethnal Green, 2-5 (final day).

Law Report December 27 1974

One trader, one pitch' not rigid rule in the Lane

conduct his business at one pitch at a time... Lord Diplock said that there was no rigid rule of 'one licence, one pitch at a time'.

The Master of the Rolls... Lord Diplock said that there was no rigid rule of 'one licence, one pitch at a time'.

LORD DIPLOCK said that section 17(1) of the LCC (General Act, 1927, made it an offence to trade without a licence.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that there had been a street trader in Petticoat Lane, being Aldgate Pump, for at least 200 years.

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Cost of caring for illegitimate children

K. J.M.P. Co Ltd. Before Lord Justice Carnar, Lord Justice Stephenson and Mr Justice Graham.

LORD JUSTICE STEPHENSON said that the three plaintiff children were illegitimate. Their parents were together from 1964 until their father was killed in an accident for which the defendant was responsible.

LORD JUSTICE GRAHAM said that the children were illegitimate. Their parents were together from 1964 until their father was killed in an accident for which the defendant was responsible.

Equitable assignment of option without notice

Warner Bros Records Inc v Rolland Ltd and Others. Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Roskill and Sir John Pennycuik.

LORD DENNING said that the assignment of the option was equitable. The assignment was made in good faith and for value.

Court of Appeal

LORD JUSTICE STEPHENSON, agreeing, said that social security legislation was not intended to be applied against losses caused by a tortfeasor to a surviving plaintiff.

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PORT Racing

The Dikler should give Walwyn fourth Mandarin Steeplechase

By Michael Phillips Racing Correspondent
It cannot be easy staying a good race meeting in the wake of Christmas but Newbury has achieved that goal today.



Don't Hesitate and Jumbo Froacome take the last hurdle.

Walwyn has won it three times already, twice with that unimpeachable character, the late fifth-year-old early sicker, the horse who won the King George VI Steeplechase twice in his heyday in addition to the Gold Cup at Cheltenham, the Hennessy Gold Cup and the French Grand National. In his race could provide Mandarin's trainer, Fulke Walwyn, with yet another success.

Stag Party is weighted to beat Tee-Cee-Bee

By Jim Snow
Just how severely limited is the supply of horses who can truly stay three miles and jump 20 fences is shown by the size of the fields for Wetherby's £4,000 Rowland Meyrick Handicap Steeplechase on Thursday and for today's £1,500 Northumbria Steeplechase at Newcastle.

For the Northumbria Steeplechase the answer is obvious: it might have been the ability or otherwise of the grey Tee-Cee-Bee to give 22lb to Jumbo Froacome in Ascot's SG5 Steeplechase on December 14. Tee-Cee-Bee finished fourth to Rough House, but he gave a different performance earlier at Newbury when he showed little ceremony or attention to the starter.



Comedy of Errors has only a marginal lead over Lanzarote at the last flight.

Comedy of Errors takes 2-1 lead

From an Irish Racing Correspondent
Comedy of Errors became the first horse to win two runnings of the Irish Sweepstake Hurdle when at Longworth yesterday he got the better of an exciting duel with his old rival, Lanzarote, to win by a length. This was very much a two-horse race and the nearest member of the punting pack was the 20-1 English-trained runner Air Straight, who was six lengths behind in third place.

For some Lanzarote on the rails had a length to spare over the improving Comedy of Errors. Lanzarote was the first to come under pressure and reaching the final flight it was clear that Comedy of Errors was going that much easier. He was not too clever for the Ladbrokes bookies, who gave him a 2-1 chance, but he was not too clever for the punting public either, who backed him to win.

Newbury programme

- 12.30 WANTAGE STEEPLECHASE (Novices) £819: 2m 160yds
12.45 PANAMA CIGAR HURDLE (4-y-o) £1,035: 2m
1.35 MANDARIN STEEPLECHASE (Handicap) £3,135: 3 1/2m
2.5 OLD YEAR STEEPLECHASE (Handicap) £900: 2m 160yds
2.35 SOVEREIGN HURDLE (Handicap) £2,283: 2m
3.05 CHALLOW HURDLE (3-y-o) £2,141: 2m

Warwick programme

- 12.45 BOROUGH HURDLE (Handicap) £204: 2m
1.15 WASHINGTON HURDLE (Div I: Novices) £204: 2m 5f
1.45 BEGINNERS STEEPLECHASE (ES2: 2m)
2.15 WILLIAM HILL HURDLE (Handicap) £832: 2m
2.45 CRUWELL CUP STEEPLECHASE (Handicap) £1,044: 3 1/2m 40yds
3.15 WASHINGTON HURDLE (Div II: Novices) £204: 2m 5f

Newcastle programme

- 12.30 PARTRIDGE HURDLE (Div I: 272: 2m 60yds)
1.0 PHEASANT HURDLE (Handicap) £204: 2m 60yds
1.30 LABROKE BILLY BOW HURDLE (Handicap) £1,632: 2m 60yds
2.30 GAME BIRD STEEPLECHASE (Handicap) £340: 2 1/2m
3.00 PARTRIDGE HURDLE (Div II: 272: 2m 60yds)

Kempton Park results

- 12.45 (12.57) ENHAM HURDLE (Div I: 10-y-o Novices) £200: 2m
1.15 (1.37) BERNI HHS STEEPLECHASE (Handicap) £204: 2m 5f
1.45 (1.57) LABROKE HOLIDAYS (Div I: 5-y-o Novices) £204: 2m
2.30 (2.55) ENHAM HURDLE (Div II: 10-y-o Novices) £200: 2m
3.00 (3.15) LABROKE HOLIDAYS (Div II: 5-y-o Novices) £204: 2m

Wetherby results

- 12.30 (12.38) CHRISTMAS HURDLE (Div I: 5-y-o Novices) £204: 2m
1.30 (1.50) TOWSTON STEEPLECHASE (Handicap) £204: 2 1/2m 100yds
2.30 (2.55) ENHAM HURDLE (Div I: 10-y-o Novices) £200: 2m
3.00 (3.15) LABROKE HOLIDAYS (Div I: 5-y-o Novices) £204: 2m

Wolverhampton

- 12.45 (12.51) STANTON STEEPLECHASE (Handicap) £204: 2m
1.30 (1.45) LABROKE HOLIDAYS (Div I: 5-y-o Novices) £204: 2m
2.30 (2.55) ENHAM HURDLE (Div I: 10-y-o Novices) £200: 2m
3.00 (3.15) LABROKE HOLIDAYS (Div II: 5-y-o Novices) £204: 2m

Market Rasen

- 12.30 (12.32) RISSY STEEPLECHASE (Handicap) £204: 2m
1.30 (1.45) LABROKE HOLIDAYS (Div I: 5-y-o Novices) £204: 2m
2.30 (2.55) ENHAM HURDLE (Div I: 10-y-o Novices) £200: 2m
3.00 (3.15) LABROKE HOLIDAYS (Div II: 5-y-o Novices) £204: 2m

Newcastle selections

- 12.30 (12.32) RISSY STEEPLECHASE (Handicap) £204: 2m
1.30 (1.45) LABROKE HOLIDAYS (Div I: 5-y-o Novices) £204: 2m
2.30 (2.55) ENHAM HURDLE (Div I: 10-y-o Novices) £200: 2m
3.00 (3.15) LABROKE HOLIDAYS (Div II: 5-y-o Novices) £204: 2m

Newbury selections

- 12.30 (12.32) RISSY STEEPLECHASE (Handicap) £204: 2m
1.30 (1.45) LABROKE HOLIDAYS (Div I: 5-y-o Novices) £204: 2m
2.30 (2.55) ENHAM HURDLE (Div I: 10-y-o Novices) £200: 2m
3.00 (3.15) LABROKE HOLIDAYS (Div II: 5-y-o Novices) £204: 2m

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3.00 (3.15) LABROKE HOLIDAYS (Div II: 5-y-o Novices) £204: 2m

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SPORT

Rugby Union

First round at last stutters to completion

The remaining first round ties in the Rugby Football Union national knockout competition will be decided today when Strathmore and Northampton receive Gosforth.

Already through to the last 16 are Bath, Bedford, Blackheath, Bristol, Coventry (the holders), Gloucester, Liverpool, London Irish, London Scottish, Morley, Morpeth, Moseley, Rosslyn Park and Sale.

Gosforth will be strengthened by the return of Dixon, the England flanker who has recovered from the facial injury which required 22 stitches after the game against the England under-23 captain Raphael as booker.

With the experienced Young at scrum half, the captaincy of Strathmore, who has recovered from the facial injury which required 22 stitches after the game against the England under-23 captain Raphael as booker.

Richmond should also be too experienced and robust for Strathmore, who won the Surrey cup, then defeated the Sussex titleholders Lewes for the challenge of London's most successful club of the season.

Meanwhile full backs make the news in today's limited club programme with two contenders for the England full back position on view in London. Richards has his first senior game since August when he played for the England A side against the Welsh in September.

Liverpool, one of the clubs hoping for a financial boost from a home draw in the knockout second round, meet Gloucester at Park-a fixture dating from 1877.

Roughley, their England centre, is back after a fortnight's absence with injury for this 189th match between the two clubs—Park having staged the most scalps with 98 wins to date.

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Barbarians have it at their fingertips

By Peter West

Rugby Correspondent

The Barbarians, playing the sort of brilliant football behind the scrum that is in keeping with their illustrious traditions, won a spectacular victory at Welford Road yesterday by two goals, a penalty goal and seven tries to a try.

It is a scoreline falsely suggestive of a rout, and doing scant justice to the efficient pack that manied and rocked with electric spirit, organization and good effect.

On the end of Weston's unselfish service, McGeochan, with his ability to choose the right pass, brought out the best in his English centres, and on occasion flanked some exciting running from deep defence.

With the experienced Young at scrum half, the captaincy of Strathmore, who has recovered from the facial injury which required 22 stitches after the game against the England under-23 captain Raphael as booker.



Preece (left) and Duckham: two with a brace of tries apiece.

Duckham, Blyth and Preece each got a brace of tries. Warfield, Ripley and Weston one each. And the whole piece was threaded to Preece and Weston only once was the last conversion made to ironic cheers—McGeochan.

Leicester now got their salutary score. Wheeler and Allen capitalizing on a breakdown and Duckham backing through to beat Blyth in the touchdown.

Leicester compounded these misses by giving away three penalties. Money on Wood, Blyth's penalty goal, and then by making a hash of their own line-out.

At half-time when McGeochan, for a scrumage brought off a dummy sissors with Preece and then dummied a pass to Warfield before sending in Preece on his inside. It was all made to look very simple.

Leicester now got their salutary score. Wheeler and Allen capitalizing on a breakdown and Duckham backing through to beat Blyth in the touchdown.

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For a last pass to Duckham. Next, the scrum, Duckham driving down the touching iron line-out, and Ripley was up on the inside to side an evasive frame across the line on its own momentum.

Leicester, ever willing, deserved better luck than to see a tapper penalty now more unwork. Neary and Jenkins made the most of it, and Duckham again spilled majestically into the opposing 22, and Weston capped an honest performance by accepting the try pass on the side.

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Scrum half and deputy hurt at same time

By John Downie

Edinburgh 2

A storming finish enabled Edinburgh Schools to beat Glasgow Schools at Westernlands by 19-10.

Glasgow's worst moment came after 22 minutes when Brown was knocked out and play continued for more than a minute, was helped from the field. Not only did Brown miss a scrum half, captain and place kicker, but also a scrum half.

Edinburgh's scrum half, captain and place kicker, was injured. He was replaced by a scrum half, captain and place kicker.

Rally by Kent comes too late to matter

By A Special Correspondent

Kent 15

Surrey dictated much of this game, particularly in the loose, but a late second half rally by Kent made a difference of it, although by then they faced a lead too big to overhaul.

Surrey scored first. A penalty on the half way line was converted for a try by Pritchard.

Minutes later a Surrey heeb against the head saw a superb defence by Kent, who led to a try by Pritchard.

Eastern Counties slip off the hook

By Peter Marson

Eastern Counties 6

Eastern Counties Schools boys a narrow victory by a goal, to a penalty goal, against Middlesex in the first round of the annual Eastern Counties' tournament.

Eastern Counties Schools boys a narrow victory by a goal, to a penalty goal, against Middlesex in the first round of the annual Eastern Counties' tournament.

DalGLISH doubtful for match with Kilmarnock

Rangers and Celtic face Ayrshire opponents in the Scottish League today.

Rangers and Celtic face Ayrshire opponents in the Scottish League today. Leaders and champions for nine years, Celtic are away to Kilmarnock.

Rangers and Celtic face Ayrshire opponents in the Scottish League today. Leaders and champions for nine years, Celtic are away to Kilmarnock.

Where a good footballer must also be a good citizen and his manager somebody special

There is no team like the Glasgow Rangers

"The Rangers manager, by usage, was somebody apart from ordinary football. He was a character, remote by character, respected by all, completely wrapped up in the image and good name of the club."

"I like to keep tight with numbers. Rangers and Celtic played well in half back, and Bryan, providing inspiration in the centre, must have been satisfied with the uncanny effort to give them a hard-working pack of forwards."

"The Rangers manager, by usage, was somebody apart from ordinary football. He was a character, remote by character, respected by all, completely wrapped up in the image and good name of the club."

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Alan Stewart
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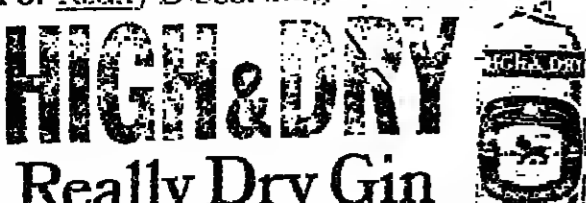
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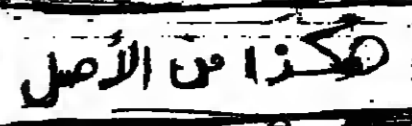
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THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS



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Gold price rises to record \$195 1/2 ahead of private American buying

By Tim Congdo

Gold rose to record levels in the London bullion market yesterday. It closed at \$195 1/2, up \$3 from its last quote on Christmas eve.

detering them from participation in the market. The Bank of America, the world's largest bank, also said that its decision not to deal in gold had only been taken for the time being.

Leading US economic indicators in 1.5pc drop

Washington, Dec 27-

America's composite index of leading economic indicators declined by 1.5 per cent in November to 165.9 per cent of the 1967 average, the Commerce Department announced today.

Midland workers press Chrysler for urgent discussions on threat of three-day working

By Clifford Webb

Shop stewards at Chrysler's Midland car plants are to press for an urgent meeting with the management after reports from Scotland suggesting that all the group's car factories would be put on a three-day week next month.

plants had arranged to meet the management two days after the restart to discuss production cutbacks already enforced.

the most severe yet by British motor manufacturers. Mr. Marsh said there are growing fears in the industry that even larger lay-offs and redundancies will follow early next year.

year. But even at Ford there are signs that the most successful British-based carmaker in recent years is now hatching plans to cut production for a hard year ahead.

Fisons' chief heads CBI overseas committee

Mr George Burton, chairman of Fisons, has been appointed chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's enlarged overseas committee, which was formed by merging the former overseas and overseas investment committees.

The committee is expected to become involved in such issues as the European Economic Community's negotiating stance in the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade talks.

Kuwait reassures UK on oil and investment

Kuwait, Dec 27—Mr Abdul Rahman al-Ahqi, Oil Minister, has announced that Kuwait will never reduce oil production to the point it hurts the United States or Britain.

investments by foreigners were assured. "This leaves the United States and the United Kingdom as the best and most secure places for Kuwaiti investments," he said.

More ships ordered by Arabs

By Peter Hill

Orders in the Middle East are showing increasing interest in acquiring both tanker and dry cargo tonnage. Yesterday Hyundai Shipbuilding and Heavy Industries, of South Korea, said it had received orders valued at \$80m (£34.7m) from Kuwait to arrange the purchase of five general cargo ships each of 23,200 tons deadweight.

Grim outlook for car component suppliers

By R. W. Shakespeare

With many thousands of workers in the motor and component industries taking extended holidays over the Christmas and New Year period, most plants were at a standstill yesterday.

However, with the prospect of four or even three-day working in some major plants after the holidays, the outlook for the industry's suppliers—there are 2,000 or so in a wide range of industrial sectors—is particularly grim.

Mr Marsh says BR could save £54m

By Roger Violeyre

British Rail could make savings of between £50m and £60m on the cost of providing new locomotives and rolling stock if it was allowed to purchase a large steam-hugging policy, according to Mr Richard Marsh, the chairman of British Railways Board.

hundred and one projects awaiting investment before they can get off the ground. Mr Marsh said the railways were reaping the benefits of the refusal of successive governments to consider the country's transport requirements for more than a short time ahead.

Texaco reports 'significant' North Sea find

"A significant discovery" in United Kingdom waters approximately 116-miles north-east of Aberdeen, was announced yesterday by Texaco in block 15/16. A east well flowed at a rate of 7,246 barrels a day, a spokesman said.

Retailers fear slump after record seasonal sales

By David Young

Retail groups are preparing for a marked fall in sales after their record Christmas and an unexpectedly buoyant start to the winter sales.

items are slower to sell than in the past. Do-it-yourself equipment and dressmaking materials and fabrics have been among the top losers.

Building societies merger 'cannot now go through'

A proposed merger of the Bourne-mouth and Christchurch Building Society with the larger Portman Building Society cannot now go through, it was claimed today by Mr Jim Rowland-Jones, a shareholder with the smaller society.

Christchurch, Mr Rowland-Jones points out that the merger could not now be carried out because it would be an irresponsible action of the chairman to try to delay the outcome of this issue.

Interest rates fall unlikely

Short-term interest rates for London are not expected to decline in the near future, according to the latest Williams & Morrow survey.

capital. It notes that the pound has been unsteady in foreign exchange markets by the record visible trade deficit of 2.5 per cent over Arab investment policy.

How the markets moved

Table with columns for Rises and Falls, listing various stocks and their prices.

The Times index: 64.15 +0.15 FT index: 159.6 +0.8

Table with columns for Equities, Commodities, and Bank Base Rates, listing various market indicators.

Travel bond demands hit small agents

By Patricia Tisdall

Many more small tour operating firms are expected to drop out of the travel business than in the past, according to the Civil Aviation Authority's tougher bonding requirements designed to protect customers in the event of financial failure.

Guarded optimism by air transport head

From Alan McGregor, Geneva, Dec 27

In his year-end review of the state of the air transport industry, Mr. Kurt Hammarberg, head of the International Air Transport Association, says the very fact that companies are managing to weather the global economic storm without a complete collapse shows their inherent resilience.

Japan Air Lines retaining Concorde option for year

By Arthur Reed, Air Correspondent

Japan Air Lines has decided to retain its option to buy the Concorde supersonic airliner for at least a further year.

The Times Awards for the best advertisement of a company's results to appear in 1974. Text describing the awards and submission details.

Advertisement for JAL (Japan Air Lines) featuring a Concorde and text about flight options and awards.

